

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-28 are all of the pending claims. Claims 1, 11, and 19 are independent claims.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Oster et al. (US 5,425,701). Claims 3, 5, 9, 11-13, and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Oster. Claims 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Oster in view of Darby et al. (US 5,370,133).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 19 to recite that the side parts (of the back portion of the immobilization plate) are designed to *fit around the patient's heel*. This amendment is fully supported in the original disclosure at least by the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. 1, 2, and 4-6.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Oster does not teach or suggest all of the recitations of claim 1. For example, Oster does not teach or suggest the claimed immobilization walker having side parts (of the back portion of the immobilization plate) are designed to fit around the patient's heel.

In contrast, as shown in Fig. 1 of Oster, the lugs 32 are not capable of fitting around the patient's heel, but are instead designed at a middle portion of the insert 30 so that a strap 92 can secure the insert 30 to the patient's foot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1.

In addition, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 11 because Oster does not teach or suggest the claimed immobilization walker having side parts (of the back portion of the immobilization plate) are designed to fit around the

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patient's heel. Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 19 because there is no combination of Oster and Darby that would reasonably teach or suggest the claimed immobilization walker having side parts (of the back portion of the immobilization plate) are designed to fit around the patient's heel.

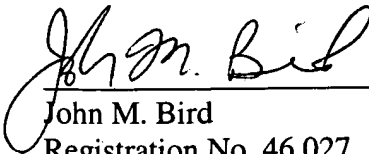
In addition, we propose requesting that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 2-10, 12-18, and 20-28 at least because of their dependency from one of claims 1, 11, and 19.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John M. Bird  
Registration No. 46,027

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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